The background of the page features several vertical, stylized columns. Each column is black with a white wavy line running down its center. The columns are decorated with scroll-like motifs at the top and bottom. They are arranged in a row, creating a classical architectural feel.

DISorientation GUIDE 2021

COLUMBIA + BARNARD

WELCOME to Barnard and Columbia

WELCOME to the 2021 disorientation guide

the disorientation guide is a collaboration between groups and individuals in the bc/cu community who want to help you (new students, transfer students, returning students, friends, allies, community members) learn about the space that you're entering.

as we move towards liberation, what's important is **community** and **caring for each other deeply**.

our goal is to provide an introduction to the learning, fighting, and loving done by members of our community, and to inform you of the opportunities for radical activism and support that are available to you. we hope that the disguise can get people connected, activated, and resourced.

**we hope that this zine is only the beginning for you:
a jumping off point for critical thinking, radical love,
and finding community.**

**ask questions, take space, make space, and push
back!**

with love and solidarity,
Disorientation Guide 2021 Team



Content warning: some of the pages in this zine discuss different forms of violence, including racism, institutional violence, police violence, sexual assault & violence, coercion, and transphobia.

Take care of yourself as you read and think about these issues!

ZINE FAQs

What is a zine?

A zine is a self-published magazine, meaning its creation and publication are completely controlled by the person or people making it.

What goes into a zine?

Anything you want! A zine can have poetry, essays, photography, drawings, cartoons, or pretty much anything else you can imagine.

How do people use zines?

Zines aren't usually created with the intent of making a profit. You might associate zines with riot grrrls in the 1990s, but zines have been and are a part of many social movements. They can be a form of creation or rebellion or a way to get the word out about something you care about.

Zines, NYC, Barnard/Columbia, and YOU

Interested in zine-ing your <3 out? The Barnard Library is a great place for it! Barnard has a zine library on the second floor of Milstein and an awesome zine librarian named Jenna Freedman.

The Barnard Zine Club compiles submissions based around one theme each semester and puts out a zine, so come to meetings and contribute! (We have oreos!)

join barnard zine club

website: zines.barnard.edu

email: barnardzinesubmissions@gmail.com

twitter/instagram: @barnardzineclub

feminist zine fest

website: feministzinefestnyc.wordpress.com

Land Acknowledgement

The 2021 Disorientation Guide was compiled and made on **stolen indigenous land**, specifically **Lenape land** on Turtle Island. We acknowledge and recognize the Lenni Lenape and Wappinger peoples, whose original nations comprise the lands on which Columbia University is built upon.

We want to acknowledge the ongoing violence towards indigenous people as well as their ongoing resistance.

We sincerely invite you, the reader, to take a few moments right now to **reflect on what it means to be occupying stolen indigenous land**, especially if you're a settler/visitor and not indigenous to this land. We hope you reflect on the fact that this is just an acknowledgement and take seriously in exploring **next steps to take to further actively decolonize this place.**

All settlers, including recent arrivants, have a **responsibility to consider what it means to acknowledge the history and legacy of colonialism.**

- What are some of the **privileges** settlers enjoy today because of colonialism?
- How can individuals develop **relationships** with peoples whose territory they are living on in the contemporary North American geopolitical landscape?
- What are you, or your organization, doing **beyond acknowledging the territory** where you live, work, or hold your events?
- What might you be doing that **perpetuates settler colonial futurity** rather than considering alternative ways forward for North America?
- Do you have an understanding of the **on-going violence and the trauma** that is part of the structure of colonialism?
 - [Adapted from Allison Jones for Native-Land.ca](#)

Learn more about land acknowledgements, next steps to actively decolonize, and resources at native-land.ca/territory-acknowledgement/

Read about the Lenape plaque on campus from the Native American Council at Columbia:
<https://tinyurl.com/honorlenape>

" 'To the university I'll steal,
and there I'll steal,' to borrow
from Pistol at the end of
Henry V, as he would surely
borrow from us. This is
the only possible relationship
to the American university
today. This may be true of

universities everywhere. It may ^{have to} be true
of the university in general. But
certainly, this much is true in the United
States: it cannot be denied that the
university is a place of refuge, and it
cannot be accepted that the university
is a place of enlightenment. In the
face of these conditions one can only
sneak into the university and steal
what one can. To abuse its hospitality,
to spite its mission to be in but
not of - this is the path of the
subversive intellectual in the
modern university. "

from The Undercommons: Fugitive Planning &
Black Study

some ways to get yr \$\$\$\$'s worth

there are lots of reasons to try to save money as a student at Columbia. it's expensive to live in New York, and it's expensive to go to these schools! here are some ways to try to squeeze all the money-based value you can out of your tuition:

- sneak into dining halls (be careful) and bring Tupperware, or have a friend go in and just get food for you*
- sign up for classes just to download a million PDFs from courseworks and read them later
- utensils, salt and pepper, napkins from Ferris*
- you can watch so many movies from online databases (w/NYPL or UNI)
- free newspapers in John Jay
- be savvy w/ free bus to subway transfers
- if you take out a Federal Stafford Loan and are on the Barnard Aetna student health insurance plan, financial aid might pay for it (I don't know why)
- take classes with field trips (barbados! death valley! cruises on the hudson river! special access to museums! new york archaeological repository! state parks!)
- free department and student life retreats
- there's free paper in the printers*
- there's a pool and a sauna in dodge
- you are right next to 3 huge beautiful parks! go
- you can get textbooks at the library : ILL and BorrowDirect are your friends; professors should be putting things on reserve and you can ask them to if they haven't
- there are free classes and teach-ins if you look (book-making! social justice!)
- there's sometimes free department / club swag beyond t-shirts!
- get a NYPL card
- you can sneak into big lectures if you just wanna audit one
- free safer sex supplies all over
- free IUD insertion for Barnard students (if you're on Barnard health insurance it covers the cost of the IUD)
- sometimes it's cheaper to pay for a meal with points than a swipe
- free boxes in the mailroom recycling bins
- free packing tape in Barnard mailroom if you ask politely
- join free food groups on FB
- free short-term counselling at CPS and Furman
- find and build community! love and friendship are priceless

*some thoughts on "ethical stealing" (even from a large institution): consider what you can pay for and what things are worth paying for; consider that some departments have smaller budgets than others; consider that there's not enough for **everybody** to steal what they want; consider that dining hall staff is just following orders when they yell at you for taking extra food; consider if you are in a financial position where you need to steal.

share yr resource\$ equitably!

COLUMBIA:

1
7
5
4



Columbia University is founded as King's College by a royal charter of British King George II.

1
9
0
9



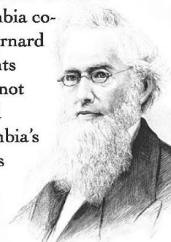
Kang Tung Pih, daughter of Chinese political reformist Kang Youwei, graduates from Barnard as one of the first transfers and the first woman of color.

1
9
2
2

In the early 1920's many Ivy League schools began instituting "unofficial quotas" to limit admittance of Jewish students. Columbia's was the most severe and slashed the Jewish population from 40% of students in 1920 to 22% in 1922 with particular discrimination against Sephardic and Eastern European Jews. Quotas like these remained at Yale, for example, until the 1960's.

1
8
8
9

Barnard is founded by Columbia University President Frederick Augustus Porter Barnard, after the Board of Trustees rejected Barnard's proposition to make Columbia co-ed. Barnard students could not attend Columbia's classes until 1900.



1
8
8
8

Faculty of Political Science admits women to classes, with permission of instructor; authorizes the awarding of PhDs to women, despite Dean Burgess's opposition.

1
9
1
9

In reaction to World War I, Columbia starts the Core Curriculum, a set of class standards that has been adopted with "Contemporary Civ." intended to "cultivate a critical and creative intellectual capacity that students employ long after college, in the pursuit and the fulfillment of meaningful lives."

a brief (colonialist) history

1
9
2
8



Zora Neale Hurston, the first known black student at Barnard, graduates. Hurston worked in the Anthropology Department with Franz Boas, collecting black folklore and oral history.

1
9
8
5

In 1985, the SAS won their fight for divestment from South African Apartheid. Barnard and Columbia both divested their respective endowments from corporations doing business in South Africa, including IBM, CBS, General Motors, Ford Motors, Coca Cola, Chevron, Mobil Oil, Honeywell, and the Washington Post.

2
0
0
8

After seven students go on a ten day hunger strike (2007), the program previously known as the Major Cultures seminar is adopted into the Core Curriculum and transformed into what we now know as the Global CORE.

1
9
6
8

In light of the assassination of MLK and student frustration over Vietnam, student protests erupt over the school's active involvement with the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA), a weapons research think-tank affiliated with the U.S. Department of Defense and plans to build gym facilities in Harlem. Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and the Student Afro-American Society (SAS) united, resulting in Columbia scrapping the Gym plans and divesting from the IDA. 712 students were



arrested; The University was put on pause as students taught "Liberation Classes" on the lawn; The Grateful Dead gave a free concert.

2
0
0
2

Columbia announces its plan to expand into West Harlem.

you will have many opportunities to
learn about resources at barnard
outside of nsop! don't feel pressured to
remember all the info

be mindful of not
feeding into stress
culture - overworking
yourself is not
glamorous

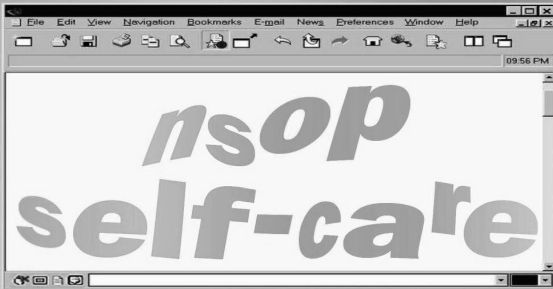
you don't need to be
productive 24/7! you
deserve rest

take a nap

clean and
organize your
work space

there are so many
people who love and
care about you. it's
going to be ok

you are allowed
to change
classes during
shopping period



get fresh
air outside
if you can

journal
your
thoughts

you have your whole
time at college to make
friends! not just now :)

stay
hydrated

try a youtube dance
workout with a
friend via zoom

get up from your
seat every once in a
while and stretch

feeling zoom
fatigue? take a
screen break

check to see if
you're holding
tension in your
jaw or shoulders

try to sleep, breathe,
eat, shower, and take
your time

unwind with a podcast (it doesn't
have to be a serious one) or music

Let's take a moment to talk about **CONSENT**

There are many narratives surrounding consent that can be confusing + conflicting, especially on college campuses. Oftentimes, the conversation focuses - rightly but almost exclusively - on consent in sexual situations, situations mostly involving alcohol + drugs. What happens when we think of consent in larger sexual/romantic + even societal ways?

To be clear: in every sexual situation CONSENT IS MANDATORY. Consent should be enthusiastic, clear, and usually (but not always) verbal. Even in a sexual situation where a power dynamic is part of the sex itself, that power dynamic should be agreed upon by all parties and all boundaries respected. Some power dynamics, though, like age, boss/employee + student/teacher differences inherently have societally - and institutionally - backed power differences where consent can be coerced - if the individual with less power doesn't consent in that situation, how can they be harmed? If someone can't consent because of drugs or alcohol, don't have sex with them, and make sure they're safe (call a friend, give them water, sit with them).

Consent is never negotiable; no matter if you're in a long-term relationship, if someone has done something with you before, or they seem to want to do something, anyone can say no at anytime, and that should be respected. Outside of sexual situations, consent is an important cornerstone to any relationship. Want to give someone a hug? Ask. Don't want to accidentally out someone as queer or trans? Ask them how you should refer to them with others. Also, while conversations around consent ^{often} only portray straight, cis relationships, consent is necessary for everyone. Coercion and assault can and do happen in queer relationships, friendships, and communities.

Consent can be expanded to larger systems of power, too, in our local communities, and in America. Did the Lenape people consent to having their land colonized? Do all Barnard students consent to having Barnard invested in companies that aid in the occupation of Palestine? How does the idea of democracy paint a picture of national consent to racist, sexist, xenophobic laws?

BOAT is Barnard's backpacking, hiking, nature-exploring collective. We organize free and subsidized forays into the wilderness and beyond (beyond !!), leaving no trace and making nature more accessible. While we are based here in Manhattan on Munsee Lenape land, we have also ventured further (further !!). If sleeping under the stars in Harriman Park, swimming at Fire Island, kayaking on the Hudson, camping with wild horses, and eating tons of trail mix sounds like your thing, let us know and join our listerv!!

We welcome all experience levels :)

✉ barnard.boat@gmail.com

📷 [boatbarnard](#)

📘 [barnardBOAT](#)



•BARNARD OUTDOOR ADVENTURE TEAM•

• WELCOME OTHERS INTO YOUR SPACE •

@COLAB.CU
for more info!

COLAB

PERFORMING ARTS
COLLECTIVE

Join!

We are a community
of creators, collaborators,
friends, and performers.
We are dancers, musicians,
actors, writers, teachers,
choreographers, designers,
and much, much more!

Open to all,
without auditions
or interviews.
We are committed
to supporting you
and your craft.

This semester, we will
gather for drop-in classes
improv jams, and a
show (!!).

This is a space that centers
bodies, consent, collaborative
processes, vulnerability,
and risk-taking.

To create and maintain this space,
we strive for mutual accountability
and collective care.

• SHARE YOUR IDEAS • TAKE THE SPACE YOU NEED •

BREATHE • REACH INTO THE UNKNOWN • DRINK WATER • STRETCH

GIVE THE SPACE YOU CAN • ASK FOR HELP • LEAVE BEHIND WHAT DOESN'T SERVE YOU



hey, we are

Asian American Alliance

aaa@columbia.edu * fb: @ColumbiaAAA * columbia.edu/cu/aaa/

Asian American Alliance (AAA, "Triple-A") is the only explicitly political and pan-Asian group on campus

We strive to create a space for the **APIA** community to...

- 1 build solidarity among itself and other marginalized communities
- 2 address social/political issues at Columbia/Barnard and beyond
- 3 learn/unlearn as a collective to resist oppression of all forms

Yearly (non-covid) Events

cultureSHOCK > a fundraising even with fashion and performance show components

crossroads > a social justice conference for high school youth

Some Other Events

typically we host a wide range of events and workshops based off our board's interests

roots: asian american storytelling
(hosted with club zamana)

combatting anti-Blackness

critical perspectives on migration
(hosted with south asian feminism alliance and UndoCU)

unpacking lunchbox politics: east asian privilege (with yellow jackets collective)

In the Midst of a Pandemic...

while an event like cultureSHOCK cannot be held this year, AAA is working [1] to support each other during this election season and in our political work within our individual communities and [2] to still put on radicalizing programs and workshops for the global Barnumbia community. some events (e.g. roots) are beloved traditions; others will be newly developed and inspired by the composition, circumstances, and interests of our board members.

Get Plugged In!

like us on facebook @columbiaAAA for the most up-to-date info & email us to be added to our listserv

Proud Colors

Follow us on Instagram @cuproudcolors



Our Goals

- To provide QTPoC with a safe, inclusive space that serves as both a platform for marginalized voices and a source of community and comfort
- To encourage community activism by providing important resources for LGBTQ students of color and facilitating discussion about important community issues

Resources for QTPoCs @ Columbia

1. **The Stephen Donaldson Lounge (SDL)** Located in the 1st floor lounge of Schapiro (Broadway and West 115th), this is the home of all LGBTQ student groups, such as Club Q, Q&A, GendeRevolution, and **Proud Colors**. It serves as a general safe space for queer students and has some great resources (queer books)!
2. **QHouse** Located at 546 W 114th street, QHouse is a special interest community (SIC) house for queer students. Five floors high, with 12 singles and 2 doubles, it serves as another safe space for QTs looking to live surrounded by their peers!
3. **First-Generation, Low Income network** For all of the FLI QTs out there, FLI offers a variety of resources for all FLI students at Columbia, including coat drives, textbooks, and access to various programs for food insecure students.
4. **Columbia Mentoring Initiative (CMI)** CMI is an inter-generational mentoring program that connects first year students at Columbia with upper-class mentors. If you're looking for a close-knit LGBTQ community to be apart of- consider joining the CMI LGBTQ family tree!
5. **Columbia Health** Visit Columbia Psychological Services (CPS) on the eighth floor of Lerner or Columbia Health located in John Jay for information on gender counseling and resources about transitioning!

Tips

- Find a community that accepts and respects you for who you are!
- If you seek to create or maintain connections with other QT students- find the time to attend at least two LGBTQ events per semester. They're a great way to make friends!



SJP & JVP



Columbia **STUDENTS FOR JUSTICE IN PALESTINE** is a diverse group of students, faculty, staff, and community members from Columbia and Barnard, organized on democratic principles to promote justice, human rights, liberation, and self-determination for the Palestinian people. We organize in accordance with the Palestinian civil society call for **Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS)** against Israel until it ends the occupation of Palestine and dismantles its apartheid state.

Columbia/Barnard **JEWISH VOICE FOR PEACE** is a student chapter of a national organization that advocates for an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine-- we are a community of Jews who strive to prioritize anti-racism in our work as we organize, celebrate, mourn, and protest together.



-----3 strategies-----3 demands-----

B
D
S
B
A
S
I
C
S

1 economic/academic/cultural **BOYCOTT**

2 institutional **DIVESTMENT** (what CUAD wants!)

3 government **SANCTIONS** of Israel

*there are an estimated three hundred children in israeli prisons as of august 2016

1 dismantle the Wall & end the occupation

2 right of return for all refugees

3 full equality of all citizens

Together, JVP & SJP launched a campaign in February of 2016,

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY APARTHEID DIVEST

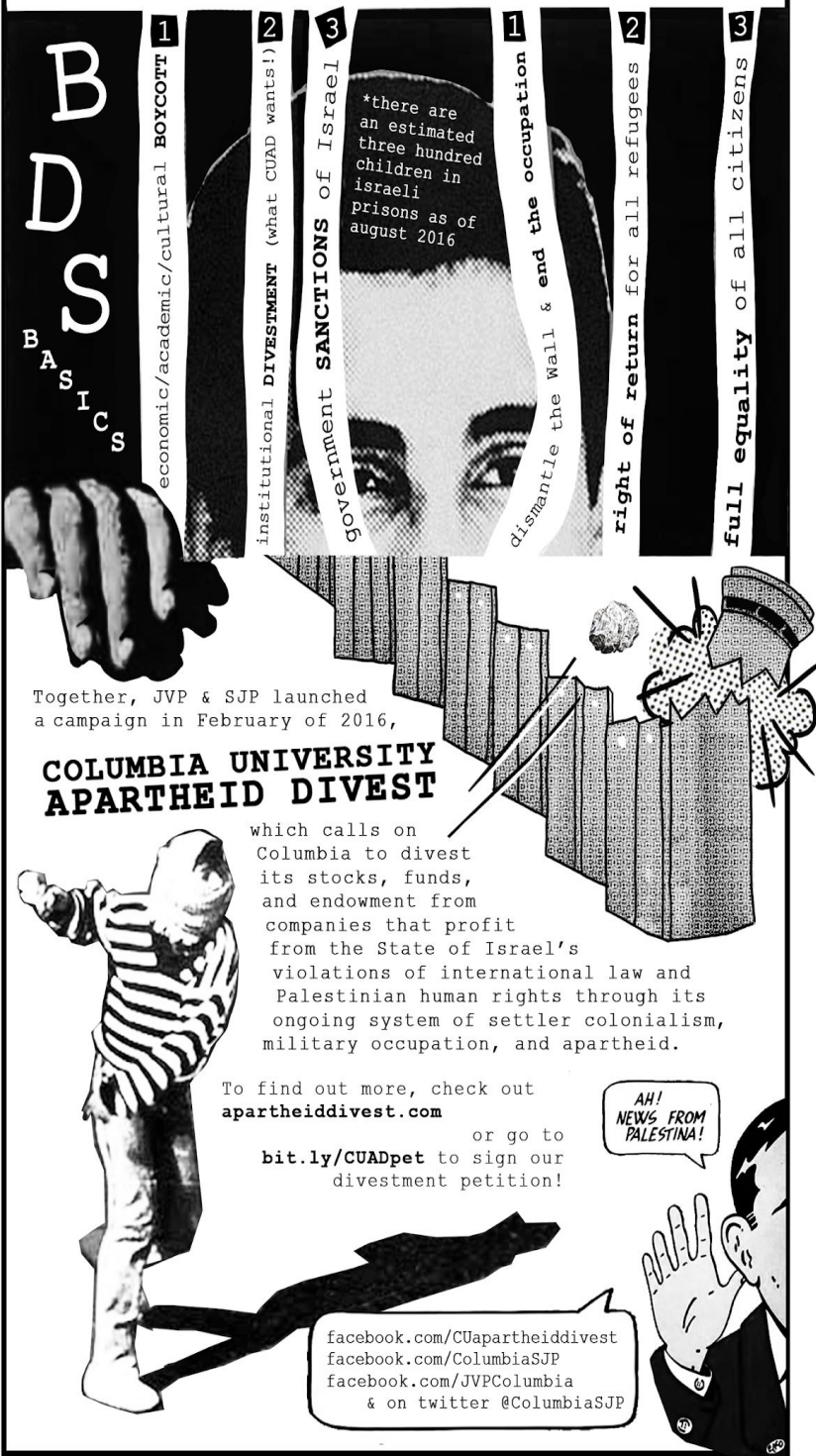
which calls on Columbia to divest its stocks, funds, and endowment from companies that profit from the State of Israel's violations of international law and Palestinian human rights through its ongoing system of settler colonialism, military occupation, and apartheid.

To find out more, check out apartheiddivest.com

or go to bit.ly/CUADpet to sign our divestment petition!

facebook.com/CUapartheiddivest
facebook.com/ColumbiaSJP
facebook.com/JVPColumbia
& on twitter @ColumbiaSJP

AH!
NEWS FROM
PALESTINA!





Interested in joining Columbia SJP?
Email us at columbiasjp@gmail.com

Interested in joining Columbia JVP?
Email us at columbiajvp@gmail.com

Want to learn more
about Palestine?
Now's your chance!

HEAR

IT

FROM

YOUR

PEERS!

On Tuesday, September 29th, the Columbia Elections Commission (CEC) announced that the referendum on Columbia University Apartheid Divest's campaign passed with 61% of votes in favor of divestment.

The student body at Columbia College has made it very clear they want nothing to do with Israel's practices of settler-colonialism, military occupation, and apartheid. While Columbia University President Lee Bollinger has already publicly dismissed the democratic vote of the student body, we will continue to apply pressure on the University to heed the demands of our campus community. We hope to build on the momentum of this moment by centering Palestinian voices and rallying our peers to hold the administration accountable for its complicity in deplorable acts. This referendum represents one step closer to divestment and a liberated Palestine.

Columbia will now join its sister college, Barnard, where CUAD passed a similar divestment referendum in 2018. The CUAD campaign, which launched in 2016, is a coalition between Columbia Students for Justice in Palestine and Columbia/Barnard Jewish Voice for Peace. The success of this vote reflects years of organizing and is a testament to the strength and power of the student movement for Palestinian liberation.

We are a grassroots organization working to end sexual + domestic violence in our campus communities because **we envision a world free of violence + oppression.**

We recognize that sexual violence is a manifestation of systemic gender oppression which cannot be separated from all other forms of oppression. **Therefore, the fight to end sexual + domestic violence cannot be won without eradicating all other forms of oppression** including but not limited to racism, classism, ableism, colonialism, homophobia, + transphobia.



We use direct action
to expose the
violence our
institution + larger
society normalizes.

We seek to foster transparency around issues of sexual violence because **we believe that a bottom up approach to building power is the only way to achieve justice.**

Our current campaign demands more **support, accessibility, accountability, funding, + enforcement** (SAAFE) to ensure that Columbia University is an inclusive educational environment where survivors can thrive, regardless of their identity (including but not limited to race, sex, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, immigration status, + religion).

A major demand of our campaign is for the creation of a **rape crisis center that is physically open 24/7 + staffed with professional advocates trained in cultural competency.** We believe that these changes will improve the quality of resources for all survivors, especially for survivors whose experiences don't match traditional narratives and who come from marginalized communities.

The work we do is
always centered on
the needs + experiences
of survivors.

Want to get involved? Sign up for our listserv @ <http://noredtapecu.org/new-page/> or email noredtapecu@gmail.com! Our weekly meetings are on Sundays from 7PM-8PM.

Go to www.NoRedTapeCU.org to learn more about our work + for info on resources.

NATIVE AMERICAN COUNCIL (NAC)

Founded in 1996 by Native students from Barnard and Columbia, the Native American Council (NAC) is a community and political organization that supports Indigenous students and allies on Columbia's campus; Our members represent a diverse range of communities, intersectionalities and perspectives, as we also assert the nonexistence of a monolithic Indigenous identity.

Each year, NAC hosts our annual Columbia Powwow in the late Spring, where we invite our campus and local Indigenous communities, as well as allies to share dance and space. NAC's other large event is the celebration of Indigenous Peoples' Day in the fall, we have done so through protest of Columbus Day and Open Mics, and the unveiling of the Lenape Plaque.

Born from the efforts of NAC members, a plaque recognizing the Lenape people as the original inhabitants of the island of Manhattan was installed in 2016. Beginning with a 2013 petition, the effort was revived in 2015 with a photo campaign urging Columbia's administration to #RecognizetheLenape, which was also supported by countless campus and student organizations. NAC aims to continue such advocacy to make, name, and center spaces of support for Indigenous peoples and all communities of color and marginalized voices on campus.

Our current initiatives include advocacy for Indigenous representation on Columbia's faculty, administration, and services in order to provide adequate spaces and resources for Indigenous students on Columbia's Campus. We also look forward to maintaining our relationships with the many student organizations that aim to support students of color at CU!!



From the Lenape Plaque:

"The Lenape lived here before and during colonization of the Americas. This plaque recognizes these indigenous people of Manhattan, their displacement, dispossession, and continued presence. It stands as a reminder to reflect on our past as we contemplate our way forward"





BARNARD ORGANIZATION OF SOUL & SOLIDARITY

WHY WE EXIST:

BARNARD COLLEGE & COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY HAVE NEVER BEEN SAFE SPACES FOR BLACK FEMMES, BLACK QUEER FOLKS, & BLACK NON-BINARY FOLKS. THEIR HISTORIES OF **ENSLAVEMENT, GENTRIFICATION, VIOLENCE, & WHITE SUPREMACIST** EDUCATION ONLY SEND US THE MESSAGE THAT WE ARE **LESS THAN HUMAN**. THEIR POLITICS OF "INCLUSION" **EXCLUDE** US. SO BOSS, FOUNDED IN 1968, EXISTS AS A SPACE TO **EMPOWER US, MENTOR US, SUPPORT US, LIBERATE US & OTHERS, AND SAFEGUARD OUR SPIRITS.**

IG: barnardboss
email: boss@barnard.edu

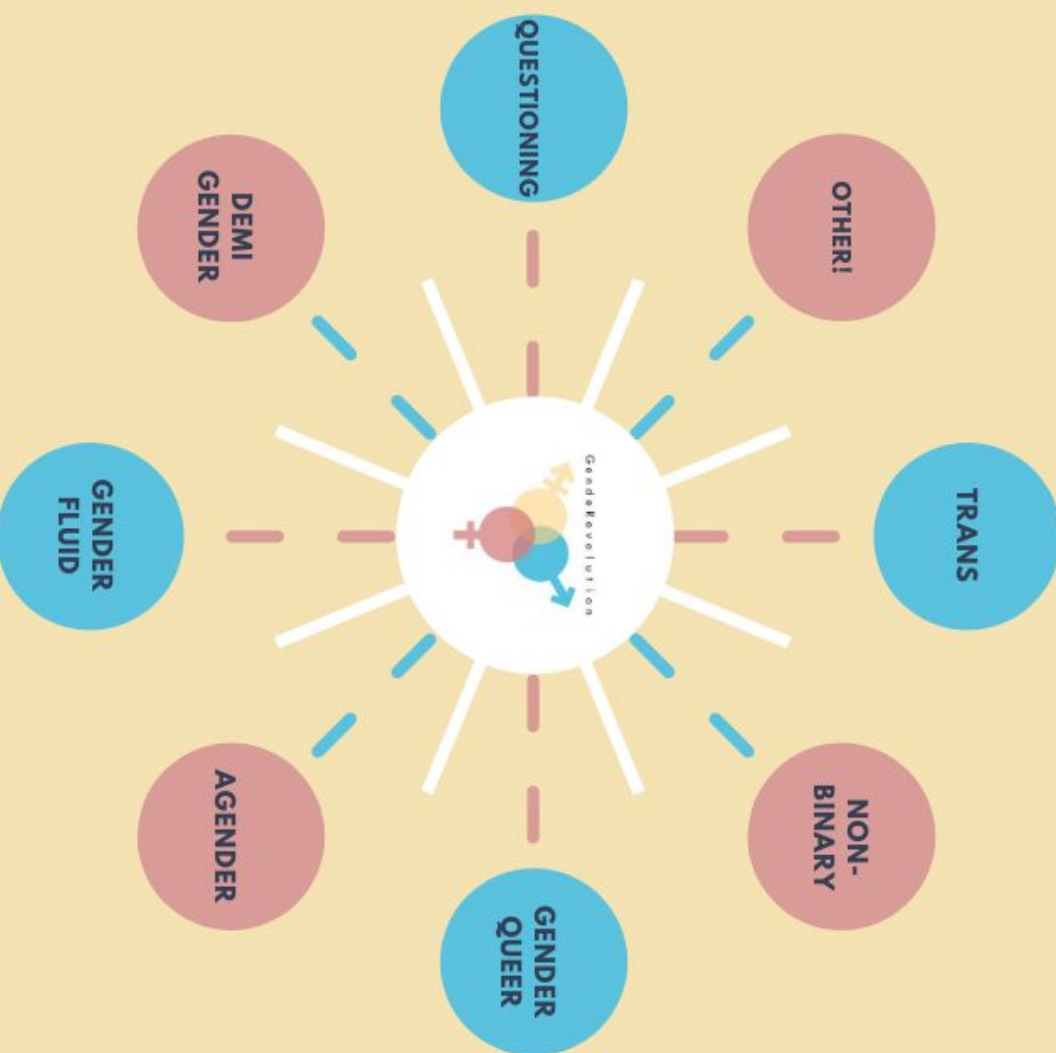
FB: @BarnardOrganizationofSoul
SistersHome

GENDERREV

GenderRevolution (GenderRev/GR) is the trans support and advocacy group of Columbia and Barnard. We aim to create safer spaces, advocate, and build community and networks of support for trans and queer people at Columbia and Barnard. GenderRevolution embraces an intersectional approach to social justice.

Membership is open to all members of Columbia University; for some meetings we specify that they be specific to trans, nonbinary, gender-questioning folks and those who feel that they need this community.

Follow Us on Instagram @CUGENDERREV and contact us for more information at grboard@columbia.edu!



NIGHTLINE[★]

WE ARE AN ANDNYMOUS PEER LISTENING HOTLINE RUN BY TRAINED STUDENTS TO SUPPORT OTHER STUDENTS. YOU WILL NEVER KNOW WHO YOU SPOKE TO; WE WILL NEVER KNOW WHO YOU ARE. WE ARE EMPATHETIC AND NONJUDGEMENTAL -- WE WILL TALK TO YOU ABOUT WHATEVER IS ON YOUR MIND.

NO WAIT TIME!

WE ARE ALL STUDENTS, NOT RUN BY THE UNIVERSITY!

NO PROBLEM IS TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL.

• WE ARE TRAINED BY SENIOR LISTENERS AND MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
• WE ARE TRAINED TO PROVIDE INFO AND RESOURCES BOTH ON AND OFF CAMPUS.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TRAINING?

• email : nightlinedirectors@gmail.com

Check <http://blogs.cuit.columbia.edu/nightline/> for our hours!

A black and white photograph of a protest at Columbia University. A Black man in the foreground holds a large sign that reads 'COLUMBIA IS THE ENEMY OF ALL BLACK PEOPLE'. He is looking towards the camera. In the background, other protesters are visible, some holding signs with peace symbols. The scene is outdoors on a street or sidewalk.

COLUMBIA
IS THE
ENEMY OF
ALL BLACK
PEOPLE

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF ANTI-BLACK
VIOLENCE AND POLICING
AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**

The Columbia University Black Students' Organization presents:

A Brief History of Anti-Black Violence and Policing at Columbia University

Written by:
The BSO Political Committee

Committee: Rosalyn Huff, Donovan Redd, Colby King, Katelyn Mitchell, Aryn Davis, Peg Nonez, Corrine Civil, Briana Wood, Payton Johnson, Sabina Thomas, Charlene Adhiambo

Table of Contents

Part I.	
Our Statement Regarding the Incident on April 11.....	3
Part II.	
A Timeline of Anti-Black Violence and Policing at Columbia University.....	6
Part III.	
Conclusion.....	13

Part I.

Our Statement Regarding the Incident on April 11, 2019

On April 11th, 2019, around 11:30PM, a Black Columbia College student, Alexander McNab, entered the main gates of Barnard College, on his way to Milstein Library. He didn't show his student identification to the Barnard Public Safety Officer seated in the nearby security booth. At Barnard, there is a policy which requires anyone entering the campus after 11PM to show student identification. However, this policy is loosely enforced, and students often enter campus at this time without being stopped or questioned. For this reason, when a Public Safety officer proceeded to follow the student to the library, he expressed frustration, as he was well aware that he was being targeted specifically because he was Black. This prompted the arrival of more Public Safety officers, who surrounded him, and eventually two of the officers grabbed him and pinned him down on the counter of the library's coffee shop. In a video captured by a witness at the scene, the student can be seen asking why he was being physically restrained and demanding the officers to release him. Once released, he showed the officers his identification card to prove that he was indeed a student. Rather than apologize or express regret, several of the officers can be seen arguing with the student and others who witnessed the event, falsely claiming that he was running away from them in a poor attempt to justify their actions. The student and witnesses maintained that he was not running when he entered the building.

This is not an isolated incident. In fact, Public Safety officers have stopped this same student twice in the past, once even asking him if he was homeless. In February, Barnard Public Safety stopped a Black man in Barnard Hall and called NYPD because he was "not welcome at that location."¹ He was searched and arrested. This pattern of racial profiling and harassment suggests that in the eyes of Barnard and Columbia Public Safety, homeless people and Black people—especially those who do not immediately appear to be students—do not belong on this campus (despite both campuses being open to the public). As we have outlined in Part II, for decades, Barnard and Columbia Public Safety, in conjunction with the New York Police Department, have been actively targeting these people under the guise of crime prevention and keeping students safe.

¹ "Individual Arrested In Barnard Hall For Trespassing," Bwog, February 13, 2019. Accessed April 23, 2019. <https://bwog.com/2019/02/individual-arrested-in-barnard-hall-for-trespass/>.

This is further demonstrated by Columbia Public Safety's involvement in the largest gang raid in New York City history. In 2010, the NYPD began investigating residents of Grant and Manhattanville Houses for suspected gang activity.² This involved surveilling the residents' Facebook posts, tweets, and phone calls for over four years. On June 4, 2014, 400 NYPD officers raided Manhattanville and Grant Houses and arrested over 40 people. Later, more than 100 people were arrested and indicted on mostly conspiracy and weapons possession charges. The day after the raid, James F. McShane, Vice President for Public Safety at Columbia University, celebrated the events in an email to students and faculty. McShane claimed that the arrests and indictments "make our city and community safer," and that Public Safety would be "actively supporting an enhanced police presence in West Harlem and increasing [their] public safety personnel and patrols in and around Columbia buildings in Manhattanville." However, arresting, imprisoning, and surveilling Harlem residents does not make our community safer. Rather, it perpetuates a long history of racist policing practices in the United States, and puts Black people (including Black students) at greater risk of racial profiling, harassment, and violence at the hands of Public Safety and the police.

Columbia Public Safety's crime alert system also fosters the notion that Black people are the primary threat to campus safety. Under the Clery Act of 1990, colleges and universities are required to send timely alerts to students when a crime is committed on or near their campus.³ According to their 2018 Annual Security report, Columbia Public Safety is responsible for sending Clery Crime Alerts "whenever a crime that is reported to them represents a continuing threat to students and employees."⁴ Usually, these alerts, which are distributed as emails, contain a low resolution image of a Black person who is suspected of committing a crime. Although these emails specify that crime alerts "do not, nor are they intended to present, a complete picture of crime on campus," sharing images of mostly black suspects posits Black people as the embodiment of crime on campus. Yet, in December 2018, when a white student approached a group of Black Barnard students on Columbia's campus, berating them with white supremacist rhetoric and even assaulting one student, Columbia Public Safety failed to alert the community. In fact, the Public Safety officer who was on the scene refused to intervene to de-escalate the situation. It is clear in both the deployment of Clery crime alerts and the interactions between Black people and Public Safety officers that Public Safety only views certain individuals as a threat to campus safety. Because these individuals are most often Black, the safety of Black students and local residents are jeopardized.

On April 14, 2019, Sian Leah Beilock, the President of Barnard College, wrote in an email to Barnard students and faculty, "The confrontation with a black male Columbia University student and

² "Harlem Residents: We Asked City for Help, We Got a Raid Instead." Juvenile Justice Information Exchange. May 26, 2016. Accessed April 23, 2019.

<https://jjic.org/2014/06/05/harlem-residents-we-asked-city-for-help-we-got-a-raid-instead/>.

³ "Timely Warnings and Emergency Notifications." Clery Center. Accessed April 23, 2019.

<https://clerycenter.org/policy-resources/the-clery-act/>.

⁴ Columbia University Public Safety. "The Clery Act." 2018 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report.

several Barnard public safety officers on April 11, 2019, does not reflect the values of the College; what transpired was unacceptable and antithetical to our mission.” Beilock went on to claim that “racism has no place on [Barnard’s] campus.” However, this response fails to acknowledge the long history in which both Barnard and Columbia Public Safety have made Black students and people feel unsafe. In addition to perpetuating racial violence and harassment against Harlem’s residents, and by extension the students that look like them, Public Safety has also been known to exploit their power by sexually harassing Black women and other women of color on both Columbia and Barnard’s campuses, usually in the forms of unwanted advances. For this reason, it is important to understand this incident as the manifestation of a larger, systemic issue which is deeply ingrained in the history of Barnard and Columbia Public Safety, the New York Police Department, the American police institution, and anti-Blackness at large. In Part II, we provide a timeline of anti-Black violence and policing at Columbia University exhibiting how Public Safety and the New York Police Department have worked to maintain and produce the myth that Blackness is inherently linked to criminality.

Part II.

A Timeline of Anti-Black Violence and Policing at Columbia University (1968-present)

April 1968: Black students occupied Hamilton Hall in protest of Columbia's plan to construct a gym in Morningside Heights with a separate back entrance for Harlem residents.⁵ Though neither NYPD nor Columbia Public Safety assaulted Black students occupying Hamilton Hall, Black student-athletes from the Columbia basketball team—then #2 in the country—were physically assaulted by NYPD during a sweep of Morningside Park while practicing, not protesting.⁶ These same Black student-athletes intended to speak on the incident during the annual Columbia University Sports Banquet, but were denied the podium by the athletics director. In light of this, Black student-athletes picketed the banquet in a driving rain.

April 1970: After six months of requesting that a vacant lounge in Harley Hall be granted as an official space for Black students, a group of student organizers, predominantly members of the Students' Afro-American Society, occupied the lounge for four days.⁷ In the months following the occupation, the administration pressed charges against two students, Lawrence Mays and Roger Newell, for disrupting university functions, although the space that they occupied had not been in formal use by the University for an extended period of time.

1970's at a glance: During this time period, the Columbia University administration began suspending and expelling black students in mass without substantial grounds. In 1972, Eldridge McKinney, a Black student, was administered a suspension for poor grades, and when he attempted to file an appeal, he was denied.⁸ Shortly afterwards, McKinney shot Dean Henry Coleman, who is

⁵ Blakemore, Erin. "How Columbia's Student Uprising of 1968 Was Sparked by a Segregated Gym." History.com. April 20, 2018. Accessed April 23, 2019. <https://www.history.com/news/columbia-university-protest-occupation-1968>.

⁶ BSO President. History Document. Report. Columbia University Black Students' Organization. 1985-1986.

⁷ Reinhart, Cyndi. "University Will Try Two SAS Members." Columbia Daily Spectator (New York City), October 22, 1970.

⁸ Schneider, Fred. "Student Sought As Dean Recovers." Columbia Daily Spectator (New York City), September 1, 1972.

thought to have lead the charge on administering false suspensions to Black students. In the wake of the shooting and McKinney's departure, Black students demanded to see McKinney's transcripts, but the University refused. However, McKinney's girlfriend at the time claimed that he had mostly A's on his transcript. On the same day that McKinney shot Coleman, a number of Black students were in Coleman's office to file appeals for unwarranted suspensions and expulsions.

April 5-26, 1985: In protest of Columbia University's investment in South African Apartheid, members of the Coalition For a Free South Africa organized a blockade of Hamilton Hall.⁹ During this time, white fraternity members and athletes constantly threatened to attack the blockaders, while Public Safety officers attempted to forcibly remove them from the building. The NYPD was also utilized as a threat to South African students, whose expulsion and subsequent visa cancellation would force their deportation, and potentially put them at risk of incarceration or death. Claiming that the students were creating a fire hazard, the administration called in state court officials, which resulted in several students being held in contempt of court. The administration also served disciplinary warnings to 25 Black and brown students, though they only made up 20% of the protesters. The blockade ended with a march to Morningside Park.

Summer 1985: In the aftermath of the blockade, Columbia administrators relied on Black faculty and staff to identify Black students on surveillance footage in order to discipline them for violating the Student Code of Conduct by disrupting access to a University building.¹⁰ Former Columbia University President, Michael I. Sovern, called in George Smart, former COINTELPRO informant against the Black Panther Party, and Kevin Matthews, departing president of the Black Alumni Council, to assist in identifying Black students. Notably, Matthews claimed that he was able to identify Charles Elder, a Black student, on surveillance footage, because, "Black people don't show up well on videotape." Additionally, South African student Denise Baloyi, who was suspended and expelled, was denied access to her transcripts denied due to her involvement in the Hamilton Blockade. This is reminiscent of the 1970's campaign to remove Black students from the University.

Fall 1986: Columbia continued in its efforts to weed Black student protesters out of the University by denying them the financial aid necessary to return for the new academic year, waiting a year after the protests initially occurred in an attempt to make the financial aid adjustments seem coincidental. In addition to pricing students out of the University, Columbia was also in the process of pricing Black residents out of the immediate campus area.

February - March 1987: Susana Acosta-Jafar, a Black staff member at Columbia, was forcibly evicted from her apartment on 113th Street—where she had lived for 18 years—by the

⁹ Spectator Staff. "Protestors Blockade Hamilton Pro-Divest Students Camp Out on Its Steps Overnight." *Columbia Daily Spectator* (New York City), April 5, 1985.

¹⁰ BSO President. History Document. Report. Columbia University Black Students' Organization. 1985-1986.

University.¹¹ Although Acosta-Jafar had worked for the University for 13 years, the administration claimed that because she did not have an employee ranking of Grade 14 or higher, she could no longer live in the Columbia-owned building. Black students and community members gathered at the building in protest of the eviction, blocking the entrance so that Acosta-Jafar could not be forcibly removed. The NYPD was called in, and approximately 30 protestors were arrested.¹² However, the demonstrations continued, and in the following days 46 more people were arrested. Afterwards, the Black Students' Organization housed Acosta-Jafar in the Malcolm X Lounge. In late March, Acosta-Jafar reclaimed her apartment and filed a temporary restraining order against Columbia so that they could not enter the property. In response, Columbia filed a lawsuit against Acosta-Jafar and her attorneys, C. Vernon Mason and Kenny Schaeffer, for abusing the judicial process.¹³ It is also important to note that Acosta-Jafar's eviction was among more than 40 served to tenants in the area during the same time period.

March 20, 1987: Matt Sodl, a white Columbia football player, orchestrated a number of anti-Black confrontations during the 1986-87 academic year. One day, Mike Jones, a vocal Black organizer, became a target of Sodl's harassment while working his student job in Ferris Booth Hall. Sodl subjected Jones to a number of anti-Black slurs throughout the evening. A week prior to this incident, reports suggest that Sodl made the following remark about the number of Black students in Ferris: "Oh my God, the chicken wings are everywhere. Let's crack a few."

March 21, 1987: The next evening, Sodl returned to Ferris Booth Hall and continued to harass Jones, this time, joined by other white students and football players. Referencing the anti-Black Southern superstition: "rub a nigger's head and get good luck," Sodl rubbed Jones' head, calling him "chicken wings" as he did so. Another white student reportedly shouted: "Suck my fucking dick, nigger!" As the harassment ensued, Winston Willis, then President of the Black Students' Organization, Kelly Bryant, a Black Columbia football player, and several other Black students, came to Jones' defense. However, when the black students attempted to leave Ferris Booth Hall, they were greeted outside by Sodl and other white Columbia football players. The white students proceeded to tackle Jones to the ground, chase a Black student into oncoming traffic on Broadway, and assault two Black Public Safety officers.¹⁴ After the white mob attack, Jones was rushed to St. Luke's Hospital, where he was treated for a head laceration and bruised ribs, while other Black students fled to the Malcolm X Lounge for safety. From there, they called more Black students to assemble for what would become Concerned Black Students of Columbia (CBSC). It is believed that anywhere between

¹¹ Smith, Neil. "Columbia University: Town on a Hill." *Broadway*, March 1987.

¹² Connor, Tracy. "University and Neighborhood Clash over CU Housing Policy." *Columbia Daily Spectator* (New York City), May 13, 1987.

¹³ Connor, Tracy. "CU Awaits Ruling in Case Against Tenant Lawyers." *Columbia Daily Spectator* (New York City), May 27, 1987.

¹⁴ Drew, Duchesne Paul. "Racial Tensions Explode Following Weekend Brawl." *Columbia Daily Spectator* (New York City), March 23, 1987.

100-200 Black students convened that evening in response to the anti-Black violence against Jones and other Black students.

March 22, 1987: Following the planning session held in the Malcolm X Lounge, the Concerned Black Students of Columbia organized a rally, and over 150 people marched along College Walk and fraternity row demanding justice for Jones and the other Black people assaulted by Matt Sodl and other white students, including Drew Krause of Phi Gamma Delta, and Mike Bogacki and Don Chiesa of Sigma Chi.¹⁵ Although the demonstration was peaceful, the administration called in the NYPD, who arrived on the scene with six squad cars and a riot van. No students were arrested.

March 23 - March 29, 1987: The day after the CBSC march, two white football players verbally harassed a Black woman in her dorm room. The following week, flyers were posted around campus anonymously, reading, "White Power — KKK," and "A Day at the Beach"—a reference to a white mob attack in Howard Beach, Queens, during which a Black man, Michael Griffith, was killed, and several others were severely injured. It is also important to note that Sodl, Krause, Bogacki, and Chiesa gained the support of the administration and other white students by claiming that the incident was a set-up, and that they were attacked by Black students who sought to organize around a false cause. It is believed that University President Michael I. Sovern intervened on behalf of the white attackers, preventing them from being arrested and held by the NYPD.

April 1987: CBSC continued to demand justice for Jones and other Black students attacked by white football players and fraternity members, embarking on a six-week protest. Protest actions included a series of political education programs, as well as a number of demonstrations held at the office of the Commissioner of the NYPD, Benjamin Ward. On April 7th, members of the CBSC arrived at the Commissioner's office in hopes to meet with him. When they were told that the Commissioner was not there, and they would not be able to meet with him, the students proceeded to stage a sit-in in the lobby of the office. 23 students were arrested.¹⁶

On April 21, the CBSC organized a blockade of Hamilton Hall, in the spirit of the Black student organizers who blockaded the building in 1985 and occupied the building in 1968. The blockade was initially only meant to last for a day, but in light of the extreme response from the University, involving the deputizing of Public Safety to make arrests, student protesters decided to prolong the demonstration.¹⁷ The first morning of the blockade, Mike Jones, the Black student who was harassed by Sodl for weeks and attacked by a mob of white students, and Marcellus Blount, a

¹⁵ Drew, Duchesne Paul. "Racial Tensions Explode Following Weekend Brawl." *Columbia Daily Spectator*.

¹⁶ Gillette, Josh, and Ann-Marie WongSam. "23 Arrested Downtown in Police Dept. Protest." *Columbia Daily Spectator* (New York City), April 8, 1987.

¹⁷ Spectator Staff. "Students Divided as Racial Tensions Heighten." *Columbia Daily Spectator* (New York City), April 22, 1987.

Black Columbia professor who was not actively participating in the protest, were arrested. Later in the day, after blockaders still refused to disperse, President Sovern called New York City Mayor Koch and NYPD Commissioner Ward in order to authorize the deployment of NYPD officers. Upon their arrival, the NYPD arrested over 50 students, mostly Black.

In the end, only one of the white students involved in the attack, Drew Krause, received disciplinary action, and was suspended from the University for a semester.¹⁸ However, Krause filed a lawsuit against the University, claiming the suspension was racially discriminatory. In January of 1988, a jury ruled in Krause's favor, and he was permitted to return to the University.

Spring 1996: After months of urging Columbia to establish an Ethnic Studies department, students began to organize a series of actions and demonstrations. On April 1st, four students embarked on a hunger strike. On April 4th, students held a nighttime rally outside of the home of Columbia University President George Rupp, posting their demands, titled "The Ethnic Studies Manifesto," to his front door. On April 9th, student protestors stormed Low Library and occupied the building for more than 14 hours. On the morning of April 10th, the NYPD was called in, and 22 student protestors were arrested. Later that day, more than 300 students gathered to occupy Butler Library.¹⁹ On the night of April 11th, more than 150 students occupied Hamilton Hall, successfully maintaining control of the building for four days. The string of protests and demonstrations finally came to a halt after President Rupp promised to hire more tenure-track faculty members to teach classes in the Asian-American and Latino Studies departments.²⁰

Black History Month, February 2004: During the 2003-04 academic year, Black students were overwhelmed by a string of anti-Black incidents occurring at the hands of their white peers. In February alone, the Columbia College Conservative Club hosted an anti-Affirmative Action Bake Sale, and *The Federalist* published a comic spread titled, "Blackey Fun Whitey," which featured various iterations of the Sambo caricature across historical time periods. In response to these events, the Columbia University Concerned Students of Color staged a week long protest on Low steps.²¹ The protest resulted in the founding of the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA).

¹⁸ Oswald, John A. "Jury Rules for Krause, Says Deans Discriminated." *Columbia Daily Spectator* (New York City), January 25, 1988.

¹⁹ Angulo, Sandra P., and Adrienne Carter. "Rally Ends with 300 Protesters in Butler." *Columbia Daily Spectator* (New York City), April 11, 1996.

²⁰ Angulo, Sandra P. "Deal Is Reached After Two Weeks of Fasting Administrators, Students Agree to Proposal." *Columbia Daily Spectator* (New York City), April 16, 1996.

²¹ Columbia University Concerned Students of Color. 2004. Accessed April 24, 2019.
<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/cucsc/background.html>.

December 2, 2005: Two white Columbia students, Matthew Brown and Stephen Curtis Searles, vandalized a Ruggles suite with swastikas, and anti-Black and homophobic slurs.²² Later, both students confessed to the crime, and were arrested and charged with committing a hate crime. It is important to note that this was one of four instances in which racist graffiti was found on campus in the year of 2005.

September 6, 2007: A message threatening violence against “African savages” and “Arab Towelheads” was found in a bathroom stall at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA).²³

October 9, 2007: Madonna Constantine, a Black professor at Teacher’s College, found a noose on her office door.²⁴

2010-2014: The NYPD carried out a cyber-surveillance mission, tracking the social media accounts of young Black residents living in Grant and Manhattanville Houses in order to build up enough probable cause to justify executing the largest raid in New York City history.²⁵ Vice President of Public Safety at Columbia University, James McShane, alluded to Columbia Public Safety’s involvement in the investigation in an email sent to students on June 5, 2014, wherein he states that the raids came “as a result of a long-term collaboration between local law enforcement agencies.”

June 2014: At 6:00AM, on June 4, 2014, approximately 400 NYPD officers stormed into Grant and Manhattanville Houses and arrested over 40 people. In total, over 100 people were arrested and indicted (see our statement in Part I for the implications of this raid on the preservation of the myth of Blackness as inherently criminal). The next day, Vice President of Public Safety, James F. McShane sent an email to Columbia University students and faculty, including the incoming class of 2014, declaring that the Grant and Manhattanville raids were a part of a commitment to “keep making our campus community even safer.” McShane further expressed Columbia Public Safety’s involvement in the investigation by pledging: “Enhanced NYPD patrols, both uniform and plain clothes, along the 125th Street/Broadway corridor; Continued deployment of high visibility fixed posts, including ‘Sky Watch’ police booths on 125th street, as well as marked vehicles, with turret lights operating, stationed at key locations throughout the area; and Additional motorized patrols by Public Safety in the Manhattanville areas during the overnight hours.”

²² Hirschmann, Lisa, and Eleazar David Melendez. “Students Charged in Hate Crime Vandals Cover Ruggles Suite with Racial, Anti-Semitic Epithets.” *Columbia Daily Spectator* (New York City), December 6, 2005.

²³ Spectator Staff. “Racist Graffiti Found on Bathroom Stall in SIPA.” *Columbia Daily Spectator*. September 27, 2007. Accessed April 24, 2019. <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/2007/09/27/racist-graffiti-found-bathroom-stall-sipa/>.

²⁴ “A Racist Incident Rocks Teachers College.” *Teachers College - Columbia University*. 2007. Accessed April 24, 2019. <https://www.tc.columbia.edu/articles/2007/october/a-racist-incident-rocks-teachers-college/>.

²⁵ “Harlem Residents: We Asked City for Help, We Got a Raid Instead.” *Juvenile Justice Information Exchange*.

December 5, 2014: In response to the non-indictment of Daniel Pantaleo in the murder of Eric Garner, The Columbia University Black Students' Organization organized a die-in, which occurred during Columbia's annual tree lighting ceremony.²⁶ During the ceremony, hundreds of student protestors dressed in black laid down across College Walk, holding up makeshift tombstones with the names of various victims of police brutality, such as Mike Brown and Tamir Rice. Soon after the demonstration began, the administration called in the NYPD, who arrived on the scene in riot gear with several police wagons and communications vans. No students were arrested.

December 2015: In support of Black students at the University of Missouri, who were performing a hunger strike in protest of a string of anti-Black incidents that had occurred on their campus, student protestors rallied to release demands urging Columbia to take steps to combat anti-Blackness, as well as to address the failures of the Barnard Columbia Solidarity Network in advocating for Black students in the formulation of their demands against the University. The NYPD arrived on the scene, along with an increased presence of Columbia Public Safety, stationing themselves on and near campus. No students were arrested.

November 3, 2016: In conjunction with the Mobilized African Diaspora (MAD), a collective of Black Columbia and Barnard student organizers and activists, the Columbia University Black Students' Organization organized a rally to amplify the voices of Black women and femmes. Although students were within their right to demonstrate, Columbia University administrators and Public Safety officers forced them to disperse.

October 10, 2017: Students gathered at Lerner Hall to protest an event hosted by the Columbia University College Republicans featuring Tommy Robinson, co-founder of the English Defense League best known for his explicitly racist and xenophobic rhetoric.²⁷ Lerner Hall staff began refusing building entry to students who they assumed to be protestors, Columbia Public Safety blocked off certain campus entrances, like the gate near Carman Hall, and the NYPD arranged crowd control barriers around the building in order to keep protestors enclosed. Following the protest, Black and brown students were directly targeted for disciplinary action despite the fact that most of the student protestors were white. This is reminiscent of the racialized targeting of Black student activists through the 1960's and 1980's.

²⁶ Sedran, Elizabeth. "Hundreds of Students Hold 'die-in' at Tree Lighting Ceremony." Columbia Daily Spectator. December 6, 2014. Accessed April 24, 2019.
<https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2014/12/04/hundreds-students-die-tree-lighting-ceremony/>.

²⁷ Huangpu, Kate, and Khadija Hussain. "Protesters Disrupt Anti-Immigration Speech by Tommy Robinson at Columbia." Columbia Daily Spectator. October 11, 2017. Accessed April 24, 2019.
<https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2017/10/11/protesters-disrupt-anti-immigration-speech-by-tommy-robinson-at-columbia/>.

December 2, 2018: An unknown Columbia student wrote “nigger” on an air vent cover and placed it outside of a Black student’s dorm room in Carman Hall.²⁸

December 10, 2018: A group of Black Barnard students were verbally and physically harassed by Julian von Abele, a white Columbia College student, in front of Butler Library.²⁹ After leaving the scene, von Abele proceeded to follow the students into JJ’s Place, an on-campus dining hall, where he continued to harass them and other Black students. The students called upon a uniformed Public Safety officer who was on the scene, but the officer insisted that von Abele was not a serious threat and refused to intervene. The students involved filed a complaint against von Abele, but as of now, Columbia has not provided any updates on the results of their investigation. This is reminiscent of the University’s protection of white student athletes and fraternity members who racially harassed Black Students in 1987. Barnard College has banned von Abele from their campus.

February 13, 2019: A Black man was stopped by Barnard Public Safety and accused of trespassing in Barnard Hall.³⁰ The NYPD was called in, and when officers arrived on the scene they searched the man and found marijuana on his person. Although he was initially only stopped for trespassing, the man was arrested by the NYPD for marijuana possession.

April 11, 2019: Alexander McNab, a Black Columbia College student, was racially profiled and harassed by Barnard Public Safety officers after entering Barnard’s campus without showing student identification. See Part I for our statement regarding this incident.

²⁸ Xia, Karen, and Khadija Hussain. “Carman Hall Residence Vandalized with Anti-Black Slur in Early December.” *Columbia Daily Spectator*. December 18, 2018. Accessed April 24, 2019. <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2018/12/18/carman-hall-vandalized-with-anti-black-slur-in-early-december/>.

²⁹ Xia, Karen. “Barnard Bans CU Student Who Spewed White Supremacist Rhetoric Outside Butler from Campus.” *Columbia Daily Spectator*. December 12, 2018. Accessed April 24, 2019. <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2018/12/12/barnard-bans-cu-student-who-spewed-white-supremacist-rhetoric-outside-butler-from-campus-2/>.

³⁰ “Individual Arrested In Barnard Hall For Trespassing.” *Bwog*.

Part III.

Conclusion

As demonstrated by the timeline provided in Part II, both Barnard College and Columbia University have a long history of anti-Black violence, discrimination, and policing. For decades, Black people have faced racial profiling, harassment, and violence at the hands of Columbia and Barnard Public Safety officers, the New York Police Department, and even white and non-Black Columbia students. Despite all of these anti-Black incidents, the Universities have failed to make the changes necessary to ensure that all Black lives (whether students, faculty, staff, or non-affiliates) are respected and protected. For this reason, although the institutions tend to paint recent incidents of anti-Black violence, like the profiling of Alexander McNab by Barnard Public Safety and the harassment of Black Barnard students by Julian von Abele, as isolated, unique, and most importantly, reparable, it is important to acknowledge that these incidents are among many manifestations of the institutions' longstanding commitment to maintaining an elite and exclusive environment. The institutions of Barnard College and Columbia University were founded on anti-Blackness and the exclusion of Black people. It is clear that this is still essential to the structure of the institutions today, not only in policing and treatment of Black students and faculty but in the treatment of the predominantly and historically Black Community of which it resides and its citizens as well.

Anti-Black racism, discrimination, and police violence are deeply rooted, institutional issues that cannot and will not be fixed by simply providing spaces for reflection and healing and offering empty promises of change and improvement. However, on both Barnard and Columbia's campuses, as well as society in general, anti-Blackness is far too often positioned as an intrapersonal character flaw that can be solved through communication and understanding rather than as an institutional system that has been ingrained into the fabric of Barnard and Columbia, the United States, and the world at-large. For this reason, it is also important to note that such incidents of anti-Black violence and policing are not unique to Barnard and Columbia.

Within the past school year alone, there have been numerous acts of anti-Black violence and policing across college campuses. Last December at Boston College a student was arrested for writing anti-Black graffiti across campus. On April 16, 2019, an officer of the Yale Police Department and an officer of the Hamden Police Department opened fire on an unarmed Black man and woman, Paul Witherspoon and Stephanie Washington, injuring Washington and causing her to be transferred to Yale New Haven Hospital. Since April 3, 2019 Students at Johns Hopkins University have been tirelessly occupying the schools administration building in protest of the creation of an armed police force and contracts between Johns Hopkins and Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Furthermore, it is also important to note that in recent years, we have witnessed an increased visibility of anti-Blackness and police violence across the nation. From the deaths of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Philando Castille, Sandra Bland, India Kager, Korryn Gaines, and Shelly Frey, the #BlackLivesMatter and #SayHerName movements have highlighted the police violence and brutality faced disproportionately by Black people in the United States.

Barnard College and Columbia University continually pride themselves on their commitments to diversity and to their surrounding community of Harlem; however, as this document shows, this has never been true. The institutions should be held accountable for the actions of their students and faculty in creating a hostile environment for Black students and community members. In order to adequately address issues of racial violence and harassment within the Barnard-Columbia community, and the world, radical institutional change is required, especially as it pertains to crime prevention, safety, and policing. Columbia and Barnard Public Safety, like all police institutions in the United States, need to be abolished and radically restructured in order to properly address and eradicate the systemic inequalities which perpetuate racial violence against Black people. Otherwise, no matter what minor amendments are made, as long as we are in the hands of an institution that has always treated us as worthless, expendable, and unwelcome, Black people will remain unsafe.

WBAR

BARNARD COLLEGE RADIO



www.wbar.org
wbar@barnard.edu



In 1993, a group of women at Barnard applied for a rock show at Columbia's radio station, WKCR. When they were rejected, they decided to create an alternative. WBAR first went on the air on April 1, 1993.

WBAR is a student-run, non-commercial, freeform, **online** radio station. In addition to our programming, we do ticket giveaways, host various music-related events on campus, and hold two live concerts a year, one in the fall and one in the spring.

WBAR offers freedom and creativity to DJs and listeners who seek a less structured form of radio expression. DJs are free to create their own show concepts and playlists for a weekly 2-hour-long slot.

WBAR is also a resource for any student and activist groups who might need audio equipment (such as microphones or a PA) for events. These can be signed out through a contract form if you send us an email (listed above).

Keep an eye out for upcoming announcements about our general interest meeting and call for FALL 2021 season applications!



INSTAGRAM: @undo_cu
FACEBOOK: @undocumentedcu
EMAIL: undocumentedstudentsinitiative@gmail.com

The Undocumented Students Initiative (we prefer UndoCU) is the first undocumented student group at Columbia University, and our main objective is to protect and dignify the humanity of every undocumented person. Following the 2016 election, UndoCU, with cooperation of Movimiento Cosecha, staged a walk-out in demand that undocumented students be protected and UndoCU has since then become a prominent activist group on campus. In order to have more freedom from the university's rules and to keep our members' identity safe, we choose to remain unrecognized by the Activities Board of Columbia. Therefore, we are currently an independent organization that does not receive funding from the university.

We not only question the broken immigration system that produces the conditions of our collective subjectivity, but we critique the white supremacist settler colonial structure that is its root. Therefore, UndoCU is an intersectional movement that prioritizes solidarity with marginalized communities and the destruction of white supremacy.

Our accomplishments so far:

- Keeping administration accountable for its promises of sanctuary to undocumented students
- Secured summer housing for at-risk students
- Expanded financial support for undocumented students
- Launched and organized *College Access for Undocumented Students' Education* (CAUSE), a Fall Semester college application program for undocumented high school students in the NYC area, facilitating information and college counselling services to over undocumented 100 students and parents
- Provided workshops for educators on best practices to serve undocumented middle and high school students
- Educated the campus community at numerous speaking events
- Featured on the Columbia Spectator, Mic.com, Democracy Now!, and—regrettably—Fox News.

Our present priorities include sustaining these accomplishments, supporting the undocumented campus community at-large, and supporting city-wide and national efforts to overhaul immigration legislation.

For more info check out our 2019 list of demands (posted on our FB page) and sign our petition to demand Columbia cuts ties with Customs and Border Protection, the government agency that oversees the camps and ICE)

Why should you join UndoCU?

- If you are undocumented, because we love you and you matter.
- If you are an American citizen, because this political system considers you human above all of us, and an informed political education requires a rooted understanding of this construction.
- If you are neither, because we believe in your humanity as much as most Americans don't believe in ours.

Despite common pro-immigrant narratives, we have intersectional leadership and make sure that non-white, non-cisgender, and non-heterosexual identities are surely prioritized here.



Graduate Workers of Columbia-UAW

For nearly four years, the University has refused to bargain in good faith with graduate workers who democratically chose to form their union, GWC-UAW Local 2110. And their pace of bad faith bargaining has only increased as President Trump's majority on the National Labor Relations Board moves closer to eliminating union rights for student employees in all private institutions.



When we voted for a union by an overwhelming margin, the Columbia administration tried every trick in the book, including asking the Trump administration to throw out the results of our election, to avoid bargaining with us. It took a one-week strike and a threat of a second strike for Columbia to start bargaining in February 2019.

But instead of bargaining in good faith, Columbia refuses to meaningfully bargain over fair recourse for sexual harassment and discrimination, unilaterally cut our best health care option, and continues to delay in addressing our most pressing concerns due to the impact of COVID-19.

When We Organize, We Win

**Throughout our six year campaign we
have won many improvements and
we know that through continued
organizing we will win a strong first
contract and continue to fight for a
better Columbia.**

**Thank you for standing with thousands of Columbia
grad workers and on the right side of history!**

Barnard Contingent Faculty (BCF-UAW)

BCF-UAW Local 2110 is a labor union for non-tenure-track (contingent) faculty at Barnard College. We began organizing in 2015 and ratified our first contract in 2017, negotiating against Barnard's union-busting lawyer to win major improvements to our pay and working conditions.



We seek to support workers' rights not just within our union, but across campus and academia more broadly.

Find us at @bcfuaw on Twitter and Instagram



Student Worker Solidarity

SWS is a coalition of Barnard and CU students that began in 2012 to support Barnard dorm attendants and Clerical Workers fighting against proposed cuts to benefits and maternity leave. On Octth 2012, the workers reached a contract that met every one of their demands. SWS has been fighting for workers rights and economic justice on campus and around the world ever since!

CONNECT W/ US!



Student Worker Solidarity - USAS Local 12



@swscolumbia



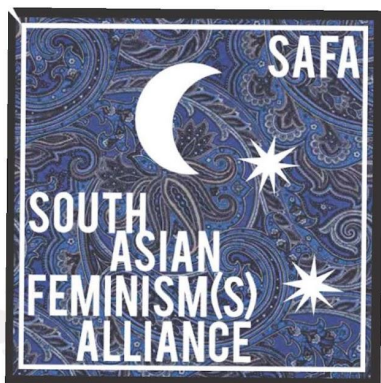
studentworkersolidarity@gmail.com



VICTORIES!

- ↳ Supported Indus Valley restaurant workers fighting wage theft
- ↳ worked w/ UNITE HERE to help Faculty House workers win their contract
- ↳ Helped defeat unsafe working conditions in John Jay Dining Hall + discriminatory treatment of Butler Cafe Workers
- ↳ Joined fight for 15 campaign to win \$15 min wage for student workers
- ↳ Supported unionization + contract campaign by Barnard contingent faculty
- ↳ Got Barnard to affiliate w/ Workers Rights Consortium to ensure Barnard apparel isn't made in sweatshops
- ↳ Supported Columbia Graduate Student worker unionization and push to bring Columbia to the bargaining table





Website: cusafa.org
FB: Columbia University South Asian
Feminism(s) Alliance
Email: cusafa@gmail.com
Instagram: [cu_safa](https://www.instagram.com/cu_safa)

SAFA's mission is to build leadership and inspire collective action against systems of oppression which affect the South Asian diaspora and descendants of South Asian indentureship.

We value creating coalitions and collaborating with groups both on and off of columbia's campus. We organize an annual artist series with South Asian creatives from different backgrounds in NYC. In the past, we have also worked with other campus groups to hold space for discussions around migration, gendered violence and environmental feminisms.



SOUTH ASIAN FEMINISM(S) ALLIANCE

SAFA is a group for those who have dealt with misogyny and violence of all forms (including IPV or sexual violence) rampant in their homes, families, and communities. For those who are queer, trans, or gender non-conforming. For those who are not able-bodied or thin. For those who have been othered within our communities because of their race, caste, or religion. This is a group for everyone who wishes to challenge South Asian gender norms and think critically about the intersections of our multiple identities.

Feel free to message us anytime to learn how to support SAFA or find out what we're up to!



Columbia Queer and Asian

We strive to support and empower **queer/trans Asian/Asian-American** students while collaborating with queer/poc organizations to create a community and safer space for queer students of color.

Like our FB page to stay updated on meetings and events or look out for our beautiful flyers created on Microsoft Paint or reach us at ganda.columbia@gmail.com



We host weekly community meetings/study breaks with chocopies, other snacks, and board games to build the QTAPI community on campus.



We also have social and political events such as: Queer Asian Film Fest, Asian LGBT-Tea Time with NYU, and Queer Southeast Asian Panel as well as other collaborative events with organizations on and off campus.

Some QTAPI resources in NYC: API Rainbow Parents of PFLAG NYC, Q-WAVE, NQAPIA

BARNUMBIA SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Being a student with a disability means you will have to work harder than most (if not all) of your classmates. This is not because of any fault of your own, but the institutions of power you will be relying on. These institutions, Barnard and Columbia, as well as the city of New York, were not built for you and that makes every step you take a challenge. This guide aims to make this process easier by identifying a few key actions upon your arrival on campus. Know that you will have these tools and the help of other students to get past these hurdles.

Barnard's Services:

Office of Disability Services

If you are a student living with disabilities you should register with ODS**now*, even if you have not previously needed accommodations, *rather than wait until you might need their services because it takes time and documentation to be approved for services*. Documentation from doctors and therapists of your disability is required. 3-4 people in ODS take care of over 500 students on campus.

Accommodations:

Academic: ODS can provide academic accommodations to help you in the classroom *including* extra time on tests and extra excused absences. You *will need to* meet with your professor to 'prove' your disability.

Residential Life: ODS can provide *housing* accommodations to make life easier on campus *such as* a dorm with AC, a single, a building with wheelchair access, or having a service animal with you on campus. Res Life has more control than ODS in housing accommodations and this process can be frustrating.

Furman Counseling Services

If you are living with mental health issues you should register with Furman. The intake process *can be* taxing as you *must share details* of your *mental health history* to determine whether you need long term or short term counseling. The office will give you referrals *but there is also* a network of students to offer therapist recommendations.

Student Services:

Barnard Network for Students with Disabilities

This student-created (non-university affiliated) Facebook page connects you to other students dealing with similar issues on campus. This is a place to ask for support, ask for recommendations, be part of a greater community of people that want to help or just vent.

Barnard Pay It Forward

This student-created (non-university affiliated) Facebook page connects students who need someone to help run errands for them by connecting them to students who are willing to help. This is for anyone who that needs something from the store but can't, not just students with disabilities (medication, groceries etc.).

Campus and the greater city of New York

- Access to Barnard resources is often blocked by economic access to get a prescription for accommodations or receive long-term mental healthcare. The Student Health Advisory Committee has collected off-campus resources for low-income folks and identity based resources that can be found on their FB page.
- Both campus and New York City may be difficult for students with mobility disabilities. Barnard and Columbia have very old buildings and elevators (especially Milbank and Hamilton). There are tunnels under Columbia that provide access to parts of Columbia for wheelchair users.
- NYC's public transportation system is in violation of the American Disability Act (ADA) in that its subway system is not accessible to *people* with mobility disabilities. The 1 line subway stop on 116th and Broadway does not have an elevator (96th Street has an elevator).

Community Advice

- It is important to advocate for yourself but also important to be able to ask for help from a friend, faculty member, or member disability advocacy community.

- School may knock you down; it is okay if you don't have the strength to get up again. Some students find *the* need to take a *lighter academic load* or to take a semester or year off.
- You are not weak for taking time to work on your own health; you are strong for prioritizing yourself. You are attending a school that does not fully accommodate you and that takes a toll. You *may* have a different college experience but that doesn't mean it won't be a good one. When the administration does not provide the support you need, remember you have a community ready to back you up. There *an entire* community here excited for you to join us.

*****ODS refers to the disability services office that is now called CARDS**

ACCESS SUGGESTIONS FOR MOBILIZATIONS

By Sins Invalid - Disability Justice performance project by QTPOC artists

In support of our current collective uprising, we offer these suggestions for making sure that your actions/ marches/ mobilizations include as many of us as possible. This work is ideally done from a deeper political commitment to disability justice, or at minimum a critique of ableism and an understanding of consent; otherwise paternalism and abuse can masquerade as “access support.”

- Always have a **Disability Point Person**. Announce them from the mic; have them wear an armband for visibility. Their skills should include a disability justice framework, problem solving, and good listening.
- Announce that the event will be fragrance free; ask people who are heavily scented to self-segregate.
- Generally speaking, written text offers an additional mode of communication.
- To support accessibility for folks that are DHoH / for those who can't hear the mic
 - have an ASL interpreter at the mic
 - use slips of paper to communicate the nuts and bolts of logistics (possibly with chants, to communicate destinations, the National Lawyers Guild's #, etc.)
 - have ASL interpreters in the crowd
- Organize push wheelchairs in advance for people who may need them; announce their availability from the mic
- Organize low stimulation spaces near the main gathering space (e.g. a room, or tent); announce from the mic
- Organize childcare and changing stations; announce from the mic
- Organize multilingual translation services; announce from the mic
- Have the tactical team spread throughout mobilizations (e.g. the four quadrants)
- Rent walkie-talkies. More information = better access. Be mindful that police escalation needs to be communicated with participants in a calm manner, and will impact some more than others.
- Provide chairs (folding chairs, mobile bleachers, etc.) for rallies / gatherings where people can expect to be standing for 20 min or more. Announce their location from the mic and explain that they are for people with disabilities, elders, and others who cannot stand for a length of time.
- **At a march:**
- Do a march route run-through with mobility in mind – possibly seated in a wheelchair or in an abandoned shopping cart (e.g. looking for grids, grassy areas, hills, holes, etc.)
- Invite people with disabilities if they would like to set the pace of the march by being at the front
- Give an auditory description of the march route beforehand
- Make an announcement before the march regarding the destination and distance of the route, so that folks can choose to meet the march there.
- DO NOT “direct” folks with mobility impairments to where you think they should be; you can offer respectful suggestions; no one should be hurried along – ideally the slowest pace should set the pace of the march; no one should touch people or their mobility devices without their consent.
- Organize a car or van to drive elders and people with disabilities from the beginning to the end of the march. Provide seating at the destination.
- Have distinct tactical and safety teams
- Police liaisons should be communicating with police that there are participants with disabilities (and elders, pregnant folks, etc) and that the march intends to respect that pace.
- Be aware that cops will often target folks with disabilities as perceived “weak links”; cops target folks at the end of actions as energy dissipates.

Access Suggestions For Public Events: <http://sinsinvalid.org/blog/access-suggestions-for-a-public-event>

Critical Thinking Questions



Have you joined local grassroots political organization to further expand your perspective and work?

In what ways do university policies forcibly gender bodies? How will you break down gender binaries?

What impactful actions have you taken in the past few months that has grounded you in movement work? Specifically abolition, BLM, ending homelessness and food insecurity?

What does it mean to be a part of institutions that actively polices and displaces Harlem residents?

How will you offer reparations to the neighborhoods of color you are gentrifying as a college student?

How is the university anti-black, classist, and violent?

How does non-black POC anti-blackness show up in NYC? What will you do to fight anti-blackness?

How have you committed to redistributing wealth?

What questions do you have? What intentions do you have?



LOVE, DISGUIDE

notes

DISGUIDE 2021